

REMARKS

Claims 30, 32, 34-36 and 41-42, and 60-64 are pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, the claims as formerly pending were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,839,851 to Saitoh et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,262 to Ogino, U.S. Patent No. 6,389,538 to Gruse, U.S. Patent No. 6,847,778 to Vallone et al., or alternatively over such references in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,470,496 to Kato et al., or as further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,004 to Sonoda et al.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Amended claim 30 now recites a method which is not taught by the combination of references cited in the Office Action. The cited references fail to teach multiplexing of discount charge data with content data and transmission thereof to a second information processing apparatus, where the second information processing apparatus charges for use of the content data in accordance with received discount charge data, and the charge decreases with the number of times the content data is used.

Claims 41, 61 and 63 contain similar recitations and are believed to be distinguished from the cited references for the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 60, 62 and 64 further recite that the discount charge data specifies a charge that varies inversely with the number of times that the content data is used. In such way, a charge for use (i.e., copying or reproduction) of the content data decreases with the number of times the content data is used and varies inversely with the number of times the content data is used. Stated another way, when "n" is the number of times the content data is used, then the charge varies with "1/n". For example, when the content data is being used the first time, the

charge for the content data is 1/1, i.e., "1" meaning full price. Then, if the content data is used a second time, the charge therefor will go down. It will be 1/2; that is, half of the original price or "half-price". If the content then is used again, the charge therefor will go down even further to 1/3; that is, to one-third of the original price.


Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0063]-[0064] and [0105]-[0107].

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: November 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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